

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1943

S E C R E T PORT AU PRINCE 1035

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EXDIS

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINR PINT HA PINS

SUBJ: ANTI-GOH PLOTTING

REF: (A) STATE 95858, (B) PORT AU PRINCE 1019, (C) PORT
AU PRINCE 1031

1. BECAUSE OF ARMED FRACAS APRIL 20 SUGGESTING THAT COUP ATTEMPT MIGHT HAVE ALREADY BEEN SET IN MOTION (REF C), I REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT DUVALIER AFTERNOON OF APRIL 21 AND CONVEYED, AS AUTHORIZED REF A, GIST OF LATEST REPORT ON ANTI-GOH PLOTTING. IN ABSENCE DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTIONS ON ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS I HAD PROPOSED TO MAKE (REF B, PARA 7), I LIMITED MYSELF TO ESSENTIALS.

2. DUVALIER TOOK INFORMATION CALMLY, NOTING THAT HE HAD BEEN THROUGH THIS KIND OF THING BEFORE, HAD TAKEN SUITABLE COUNTER-MEASURES, AND WAS CONVINCED THAT HE WOULD EMERGE ON TOP IN ANY STRUGGLE THAT MIGHT ENSUE. COMMUNISTS WERE ALWAYS BEHIND SUCH ATTEMPTS TO OVERTHROW REGIME, HE SAID, BUT THEY WOULD NEVER SUCCEED IN HAITI.

3. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION ABOUT SIGNIFICANCE OF EVENTS IN CARREFOUR, DUVALIER DISMISSED AFFAIR AS INCONSEQUENTIAL

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AND DEPRECATED THE CAPACITY OF THE PLOTTERS TO ACCOMPLISH

ANYTHING. HE APPEARED TO DRAW NO RPT NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THE FIREFIGHT AND THE LATEST REPORT OF EXTERNALLY-DIRECTED ANTI-GOH PLOTTING, BUT HE MAY MERELY HAVE BEEN TAKING THIS LINE FOR TACTICAL PURPOSES, TO UNDERSCORE HIS CALMNESS IN FACE OF THIS CHALLENGE.

4. AT CONCLUSION OF OUR TALK, DUVALIER EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR OUR HAVING CONVEYED THIS INFORMATION TO HIM.

5. COMMENT: AMONG THE ADDITIONAL SECURITY PRECAUTIONS TAKEN AT APRIL 21 CATHEDRAL MEMORIAL SERVICE WAS THE SEPARATE SEATING OF MADAME DUVALIER AND TWO DAUGHTERS IN FRONT ROW PEWS IN NAVE, LEAVING PRESIDENT TO SIT APART NEAR ALTER, ACCOMPANIED BY GENERAL GRACIA JACQUES ONLY, THUS PROVIDING HIS SECURITY GUARDS STANDING BEHIND HIM CLEAR FIELD OF FIRE.

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